



# **Legislative Platform and Policies**

**78<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
2015 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

**CITY OF LAS VEGAS  
Legislative Platform and Policies  
Approved by Council on February 4, 2015**

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# CITY OF LAS VEGAS

## Core Purpose

## **Building Community to Make Life Better**

## City Priorities

- Economic Diversification
- Public Safety
- Transportation
- Education

## Strategic Anchors – Working towards a health organization

- Sustainable (Programs and services designed to last for generations)
- Iconic (Perform to a high standard)
- Service Value (A service provided in a cost effective way)

## **BUILDING A HEALTHY ORGANIZATION**

## Core Values

- **Achievement:** To act with excellence; continuously improve and accomplish goals.
- **Creativity:** To act with confidence and courage as we try new things, take risks and have fun!
- **Teamwork:** To act collaboratively by combining individual strengths and uniting around common goals.
- **Integrity:** To act with truthfulness and transparency.
- **Ownership:** To act with personal pride and accountability.
- **Now!**

## THE LAS VEGAS CITY COUNCIL

### **City Government Overview**

The city of Las Vegas was founded on May 15, 1905, when a land auction, in what is now known as downtown Las Vegas, resulted in the purchase of 110 acres of land. The city incorporated on March 16, 1911, and until 1944, operated under a "commission" form of government with each commissioner having administrative control over certain operating departments of the city.

The citizens elect the Mayor and six Council Members who comprise the "City Council." Their terms are four years with elections staggered every two years.



**Mayor  
Carolyn G. Goodman**



**Councilman,  
Mayor Pro Tem  
Stavros S. Anthony  
Ward 4**



**Councilwoman  
LOIS TARKANIAN  
Ward 1**



**Councilman  
STEVEN D. ROSS  
Ward 6**



**Councilman  
RICKI Y. BARLOW  
Ward 5**



**Councilman  
BOB COFFIN  
Ward 3**



**Councilman  
BOB BEERS  
Ward 2**

## CITY MANAGEMENT



**City Manager**  
**ELIZABETH N. FRETWELL**

The city of Las Vegas is a council-manager form of government, combining the strong political leadership of elected officials with the strong managerial experience of an appointed city manager. All policy rests with the City Council, with the City Manager charged with running the day-to-day operations of the organization.

The City Manager's Office is responsible for the effective administration and operation of all municipal services for the City. Also, the office oversees all redevelopment and economic development. The office is overseen by City Manager Elizabeth Fretwell, Deputy City Managers Orlando Sanchez and Scott Adams as well as Executive Director of Community Development Jorge Cervantes and Chief Financial Officer Mark Vincent. The City Manager's staff also tracks the progress of various projects, monitors the day-to-day activities of City departments and maintains intergovernmental relationships with the federal, state and other local governments. The office also oversees the City's diversity and community relations programs.



**Deputy City Manager**  
**ORLANDO SANCHEZ**



**Deputy City Manager**  
**SCOTT D. ADAMS**



**Chief Financial Officer**  
**MARK R. VINCENT**



**Executive Director,  
Community Development**  
**JORGE CERVANTES**

## **Legislative Team**

Ted Olivas, Chief of Staff, (702) 229-6501, [tolivas@lasvegasnevada.gov](mailto:tolivas@lasvegasnevada.gov)

Brian McAnallen, Government Affairs Manager, (702) 467-0125, [bmcanallen@lasvegasnevada.gov](mailto:bmcanallen@lasvegasnevada.gov)

Kelly Martinez, Government Affairs Officer, (702) 236-7475, [kmartinez@lasvegasnevada.gov](mailto:kmartinez@lasvegasnevada.gov)

### **City of Las Vegas Contract Lobbyist**

The Ferraro Group

Greg Ferraro

Bob Ostrovsky

Misty Grimmer

Mike Sullivan

## **LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM**

The Legislative Platform serves as a guidance document regarding the City's advocacy position which serves to assist the Mayor, Council, City Manager and Government Affairs function in providing prompt and accurate responses to proposed legislation during the 78<sup>th</sup> Legislature, 2015 session. This is particularly important during the state legislative process where time is often very short between a bill's drafting and publishing and determining when a position is required by the local entity.

The Legislative Platform is the basis for determining issues and policies for the effective engagement of the City's Government Affairs program at the State Capitol during the 78<sup>th</sup> Legislature's 2015 Legislative Session. The City will continue to support legislation and policies such as: opportunities to reinforce local entity governance, current C-TAX formula, no unfunded mandates, stabilize the state tax structure without negatively impacting local government, safeguard existing revenue sources from pre-emption by the state and county governments, strengthen local law enforcement, maintain the tools to effectively enhance economic development efforts, encourage business relocation in the City of Las Vegas, and long-term planning for highway and transportation projects.

Issues are categorized by the following; general government stability, public safety, redevelopment and economic development, housing and community services, education and infrastructure.

## **GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

- Support legislation that enhances local government's decision making authority for the community it is elected to lead.
- Support public utility regulations that:
  - Maintain local control over rights-of-way.
  - Provide compensation for the use of rights-of-way and overseeing public service standards.
  - Ensure public, educational, and governmental access is available and affordable.
  - Avoids red lining service delivery.
- Support state funding and legislation for the arts that benefit local communities.
- Support legislation to address regulating business licensing for the sale of wholesale liquor for a business located wholly within the limits of a municipality. (NLC&M)
- Support legislation to clarify provisions governing fees charged for providing copies of public records and the definition of what constitutes an extraordinary use of an entity's personnel or technological resources to comply with the request. (NLC&M)
- Support legislation for more local control medical marijuana.
- Support the state and regional efforts to oppose licensing of Yucca Mountain as a site for nuclear waste storage.
- Support measures that safeguard the community and transportation networks from hazardous and toxic materials.
- Support measures to reform Nevada's tort system to reduce or limit liability exposure for public agencies and restore ability of public agencies to obtain affordable insurance.
- Support legislation that maintains city's control over the construction of facilities and/or structures within its boundaries (i.e., cellular towers, well heads, power lines, maintenance yards, etc.).
- Oppose legislation that attempts to limit or restrict existing immunities for public agencies.
- Oppose legislation that limits assessor valuation of tax bills in a way that prevents local governments from managing its own property tax revenue under NRS 354.59811

## **Local Government Finance:**

- Support legislation to expand the use of residential construction tax to improve existing parks or facilities. (NV League of Cities & Municipalities)
- Support legislation to address the definition of severe financial emergencies, and the actions that can be taken in such emergencies.

- Support legislation and/or policy changes to address the economic recovery dampening effects of partial abatement for property taxes.
- Support legislation to reduce or eliminate the depreciation rate on improvements for property tax valuation.
- Support legislation that allows the city to maintain and/or control revenues related to franchises (i.e., gas, water, sewer, garbage, telecommunications, etc.).
- Support legislation that would allow the city to license and control franchises for satellite services.
- Support legislation for local governments to maintain and expand the use of special improvement districts.

#### **Human Resources:**

- Support legislation that improves access to, and reduces the cost of, healthcare for public employees.
- Support PERS reform to stabilize our investment in the PERS system, reduce the impact to the city of Las Vegas and align with fiduciary requirements PERS has to its members.
- Support legislation that segregates active from retiree health care rates to reduce OPEB liabilities.
- Support legislation to address the arbitration process to provide additional options for the arbitrator and the city.
- Support legislation to appropriately define a supervisor.
- Support legislation that caps or reduces the “manifestation period” of presumptive illness of public service employees.
- Support legislation that limits the ability of employees to receive worker’s compensation benefits for occupational injuries and illnesses that result from stress, disciplinary action or performance evaluations, or consultations.
- Support legislation limiting employer liability if injury occurs due to employee negligence.
- Oppose any measure that mandates the granting of new employee benefits that pose additional costs to the city (without forcing the issue to the bargaining table).



- Oppose legislation that increases worker's compensation benefits without providing for concurrent cost controls.
- Oppose legislation to include subjective complaints of pain in determining partial disability awards.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

- Support legislation that allows local agencies to recover costs from guilty parties for public property and services in accidents involving driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.
- Support legislation to allow LVFR to transport certain patients to alternative treatment destinations rather than emergency departments.
- Support legislation and increased federal funding for medical transports of patients where programs allow for some cost recovery.
- Support legislation granting immunity to governmental entities and their employees for purposes of liability for those entities and employees who provide emergency medical instructions or treatment as a part of their public safety job duties.
- Support state homeland security legislation that assists in safeguarding the homeland as well as provides direct funding to cities and high-threat regions.
- Support legislation related to para medicine programs operated by emergency medical technicians and paramedics.
- Support legislation and or policies to expand the jurisdiction of Las Vegas Marshals beyond city properties.
- Support enabling legislation that provides expanded utilization of non-sworn officers to issue nuisance citations.
- Support enabling legislation that provides local authority to impose mandatory court assessments to defray administrative cost of municipal courts.
- Oppose any broading of access to criminal justice records.

### **REDEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

#### **Redevelopment:**

- Support legislation to amend the City of Las Vegas redevelopment agency to clarify using the assessed value of the "aggregate redevelopment project" rather than "each redevelopment project."

- Oppose legislation that restricts the Sales Tax Anticipated Revenue Bond program from redevelopment areas.
- Oppose legislation that prohibits or limits the establishment of new redevelopment project areas or expansion of existing project areas.
- Oppose legislation that diverts future revenues from redevelopment agencies to other new public entities beyond education and housing.

#### **Economic Development:**

- Support legislation and/or policy changes to clarify the State's New Markets Tax Credit program and address operational barriers.
- Support legislation that facilitates expansion of Free Trade Zones (FTZs).
- Support legislation and/or policy changes that address physician reimbursement rates to assist in keeping physicians practicing in Nevada.
- Support legislative opportunities to bring technology to assist the city in economic recruitment (i.e., WiFi, DSL, fiber optics, broadband cable, voice over IP, etc.).
- Support legislation that provides for retention of room tax revenue for local utilization in promotion and capital improvements.
- Support of various initiatives that will grow the unmanned aerial systems industry statewide. (LVGEA)
- Support efforts to increase the allocations in the state's Catalyst Fund. (LVGEA)
- Support initiatives that encourage business retention in target industries for economic development purposes. (LVGEA)
- Support initiatives that will ensure that the state has sufficient, development ready industrial land. (LVGEA)
- Support directed funding for regional economic development. (LVGEA)

#### **HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES:**

- Support legislation that provides assistance to homeowners in maintaining their mortgages against predatory foreclosure by lending institutions.
- Support legislation that ensures financial institutions or holding/asset management firms are responsive to code enforcement issues on bank owned properties.

- Support legislation that provides incentives (tax benefits, grants, loans, credits for affordable units) to local agencies, private developers, and non-profit groups in order to rehabilitate residential units and commercial properties without using existing local government resources.
- Support efforts to develop state participation, financial support and incentives (tax benefits, grants, loans) for programs that provide adequate, affordable housing (home ownership or rental opportunities for first-time home buyers assistance) for all economic segments of the community including the elderly, handicapped and low-income persons.
- Support state participation in funding innovative housing solutions for low-income, elderly and handicapped individuals.
- Support legislation that provides incentives for maintaining cultural resources, including historic housing stock.
- Support streamlined procedures for annexation of land within a city's boundaries.

## **EDUCATION**

### **Pre-K- 12:**

- Support efforts to revise the Nevada Plan Funding Formula, implementing a weighted funding model that addresses the needs of specific student populations including English language learners, special education and children living in poverty.
- Support legislation that will assist the city's efforts with closing the achievement gap and advance academic success for the students living at or below the poverty level in and around the downtown core of Las Vegas (i.e. Downtown Achieves and Brother's Keeper).
- Support efforts to enhance a science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) curriculum and strengthen educational achievement with a STEM emphasis. (LVGEA, NSHE)
- Instituting universal full day Kindergarten, expand Pre-K programs and zoom schools in Southern Nevada. (LVGEA, CCSD)
- Creating grants to improve and expand teacher and principal training and professional development systems. (LVGEA, CCSD)
- A variety of mechanisms to spur new school construction and fund capital improvements to existing schools. (LVGEA, CCSD)
- Support efforts to increase access to quality early childhood education and promote literacy in and around the downtown core of Las Vegas.

### **Higher Education:**

- Support efforts to develop and fund a UNLV separately accredited, full-scale, research-intensive, M.D.-granting (allopathic) medical school and located in the downtown medical

district. (LVGEA, NSHE)

- Support expansion of Graduate Medical Education (GME) residency and fellowships through continued sponsorship of UNSOM and future sponsorship of UNLV School of Medicine. (NSHE)
- Support funding for the UNLV Hotel College Academic Building. (NSHE)
- Support funding opportunities for community colleges to develop and enhance workforce education programs to address and train the workforce needed to support business growth and retention. (NSHE)
- Support efforts by UNLV to pursue The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, Tier One as a very high research focused university. (NSHE)
- Support increased allocations to the State's Knowledge Fund. (LVGEA, NSHE)

### **INFRASTRUCTURE**

- Support measures that increase the ability of local agencies to finance local transportation facilities and infrastructure.
- Support funding for design and construction of I-15, Project Neon, I-11, and completion of the 215 Beltway.
- Support the consolidation of ballot initiatives related to fuel tax indexing. (LVGEA)
- Support legislation that provides greater flexibility regarding public works projects and funding sources (i.e. new funding mechanisms utilizing existing state and federal revenues as well as new sources).
- Support legislation and/or policy changes to reduce the expenditure amount for projects.
- Support legislation that maintains city control over its rights-of-way.

### **Regional Planning**

- Support legislation that maintains local control through policies governed by the Southern Nevada Regional Planning Commission (SNRPC), Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA), Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD), Las Vegas Valley Water District (LVVWD), Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD), Regional Transportation Authority (RTC), and Southern Nevada Regional Flood Control District (RFCD).